

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
PACIFIC BASIN AREA
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

STRIPCROPPING, FIELD

(Hectare, Acre)
CODE 586

DEFINITION

Growing crops in a systematic arrangement of strips or bands across the general slope (not on the contour) to reduce water erosion. The crops are arranged so that a strip of grass or a close-growing crop is alternated with a clean-tilled crop or fallow.

strips should be compatible with field equipment.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

PURPOSE

To help control erosion and runoff on sloping cropland where contour stripcropping is not practical.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice applies on sloping cropland and on certain recreation and wildlife land.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Effects on the water budget, especially on volumes and rates of runoff, infiltration, evaporation, transpiration, deep percolation, and groundwater recharge. Variability of practice's effects caused by seasonal weather variations.

Potential for a change in plant growth and transpiration because of changes in the volume of soil water.

Filtering effects of vegetation on movement of sediment and dissolved and sediment-attached substances.

Effects on erosion and the movement of sediment, pathogens, and soluble and sediment-attached substances carried by runoff.

Effects on the visual quality of downstream water resources.

SPECIFICATIONS GUIDE

Specify the width of strips for different crops, percentage of slopes, and soils. Width of